

WILL TAKE OVER ROADS DEC. 31

PRESIDENT WISHES TO BEGIN
NEW YEAR IN CONTROL OF
LINES.

SICKEST OBSTACLES ARE GONE

Immediate Problem is Increase of
Wages Demanded by Workers—
Brotherhoods Hold Con-
ference With President.

Washington.—The nation's transportation facilities will be taken over by the President of the United States on December 31, in the statement made here in high circles.

While no confirmation was forthcoming from the White House, information given the public is that the President finally has decided upon this step to solve the increasing railroad congestion. His proclamation has been prepared, it is said, and is ready to be made public after his conference with representatives of the four big brotherhoods and railroad presidents later in this week.

While several obstacles still exist against carrying out the plan as arranged, it was said authoritatively tonight that the President is hopeful of overcoming still existing difficulties before Friday. The President is reported to be confident that the railroad presidents will agree to the compensation the railroads shall receive before he acts under authority conferred in the act of August 29, 1916, and if such an agreement can be obtained the financial questions that must be settled by additional legislation will be comparatively easy.

An immediate problem before the government is the demands of the brotherhoods for increased wages. The President proposes to obtain a complete agreement with the officials of the brotherhoods when they come here Thursday at his request as to their attitude on wages when the railroads come under government control.

WILLING TO ASSIST ALLIES

Some Diplomats Said to Be in Favor
of Plan Which President Wilson
Pursue On.

Washington.—Japan is anxious to strike at Germany by occupying Siberia, according to advices here.

Some allied diplomats were said to favor the move, in view of the possibility of Teuton domination of all of Russia, even in the east. They pointed out that the American consul at Vladivostok had said there was need for troops at that port.

President Wilson, it was suggested, will be the determining factor in the decision as to whether Japanese soldiers should invest Vladivostok, provided that is the actual wish of Japan.

PREDICTS END OF THE WORLD

Chicago Fanatic With "Message" Says
AU Will Be Over on Washing-
ton's Birthday.

Chicago.—Walter Schnett, having a "message" to deliver, went to the Central Park Methodist Church, where Clarence S. Darrow was speaking on "Why We Are at War."

When Darrow had finished Schnett jumped on a chair and told the crowd: "We cannot beat Germany, because the world will come to an end on Feb. 22. I have been chosen by God to spread the tidings."

At this point he was gently led away to a police station.

U-BOAT CHASER DESTROYED

Fire Breaks Out on Vessel in Harbor
and It Is Sunk to Prevent Ex-
plosion.

Newport News, Va.—Two members of the crew were injured when the United States submarine chaser 118 was burned to the water's edge near Old Point.

The chaser carried 2,000 gallons of gasoline. This fuel was emptied on the water when another chaser fired a shot into the tank of the burning craft to prevent explosion.

Milliner Held on Sedition Charge.

Oakland, Cal.—Mrs. Valeria Higgins, Viennese milliner, who once started society by her claims of being the fourth daughter of the late Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, is under arrest here charged with seditious conduct.

Melapese From Watermelon. Worcester, Mass.—The watermelon has been drafted for war purposes. A Mississippi company is to make melons, vinegar and cattle feed from the big melons which are largely wasted in the South.

10,000 Iron Workers Strike. San Francisco.—Three thousand workmen of four crafts in the Iron Trades Council, including men not engaged in building ships for the government, are on strike in San Francisco Bay shipyards.

Shortage in France. The food needs and food supplies of France for the coming nine months were dealt with before the Senate in a statement by Victor Borah in which there was a deficit of 1,000,000 tons of wheat.

San Francisco Tragedy. San Francisco, Calif.—Three persons were killed when an automobile crashed into a building at the corner of Broadway and Market streets.

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NO FOOD WASTE ALLOWED HERE



Rumors of waste of food at canteen camps have been hotly resented by officers who have charge of garbage disposal at the various camps. This picture shows the unloading of garbage at the central depot at Camp Meade. The cans are brought from benches underneath the windows of each mess hall. Each can is labeled for various sorts of refuse so that bones, cans, paper, etc., go into separate receptacles. The camp's conservation officer notes the contents of each can as they are dumped into motortrucks for sale to contractors. At Camp Meade a cook who fails to scrape a bone properly is in for a stiff call.

LABOR IN NEW DEMANDS

ARMY BILL FAILS TO SUIT EN-
GLISH WORKERS.

Asks Further Concessions From Un-
ionists in Supplying New Men
for Fighting Front.

London.—Labor's expected demands from the government when the leaders meet Premier Lloyd George, Minister of National Service A. C. Geddes and others is the biggest question before Great Britain.

The government has indicated its intention to ask further concessions from British unionism, permitting heavy new drafts from its members to supply man power to the army. The laborites have intimated they will accede to such a request, but it was not anticipated they would abandon their safeguards against drafting without a counter bargain.

Strong sentiment was noted that the opportunity would be utilized to obtain the government's adherence to the principal points in labor's announced war aims—including not only the idea of a League of Nations and no economic war after the war, but frank and complete renunciation of any support by Great Britain of imperialistic aims. Labor suspects certain of the allies entertain these imperialistic aims.

There was a growing belief that labor might urge also H. G. Wells' suggestion that unionism demand Sir Edward Carson's expulsion from the ministry as one who had gone over under pressure of British Toryism. Considerable sentiment was developed against the member of the war cabinet.

Home rule leaders, however, were disposed to insist only on domestic concessions from the government—particularly as to food supplying.

ENGLAND TO RATION TOBACCO

Weed Is Necessary and Soldiers Must
Be Supplied, Food Controller
Says.

London.—Tobacco is a necessity, not a luxury, declares Lord Rhonda, the food controller, in a statement published here. "We must have tobacco," he says. "I believe that its loss would be a national misfortune. It means much both to the manual laborer and to him who works with his brains. Men would eat a great deal more if they did not have tobacco. I hold that the deprivation of it would work great discomfort."

Some system of "rationing" tobacco, however, is forecasted by the newspapers.

EFFICIENCY FLEET AT WORK

First Craft Designed to Overcome
German Submarine Is in
Commission.

Washington.—The first ship of the United States marine designed to overcome Germany's U-boat war, has gone to work. The shipping board received a telegram from Capt. J. F. Blaine, district supervisor for the Emergency Fleet Corporation, at Seattle, announcing that the Seattle, the first steel ship to be completed under the board's vast building program, has sailed from a Pacific port on her maiden voyage.

Washington.—The sea has claimed two more American sailors. Leo E. Murphy, Orville, Cal., and George O. K. Vidahl, Arlington, N. J., second class seamen, were lost overboard from a transport Dec. 27.

Two Mysterious Fires. Winnipeg, Manitoba.—Investigation was started of two fires within 48 hours, which caused \$275,000 loss. One fire was in an elevator at St. Boniface, causing \$250,000 loss. The other was in the dry kiln at the Port Arthur shipyard.

\$50,000,000 More for War. Washington.—Almost \$50,000,000 in further appropriations to complete war preparations during the present fiscal year has been asked in deficiency estimates submitted to Congress since the holiday recess began.

New York Police in Army. New York.—The entire bomb squad and about 20 other detectives have been taken over by the army intelligence bureau at the request of Secretary of War Baker. They will enlist as privates in the army.

NEW TROOPS TO BELGIUM

TRAIN COMES IN FROM RUSSIA
EVERY SIX MINUTES.

Soldiers Not Pleased With Transfer
as Fighting on French Line Is
Too Severe.

The Hague.—There are reasons for believing that the transport of German troops from the eastern front to Flanders is more of a demonstration than preparation for a great offensive. From several independent sources it is learned that troops from the eastern front actually in Flanders amount only to a few divisions. It is a fact, however, that there is heavy traffic over the line.

Reliable messages report that the frontier between Zeeland and Belgium is lined with German troops, clothed in furs, from the Russian front. They are not pleased at their transfer so near to possible scenes of fighting. According to frontier correspondents there is night and day traffic on the Eecloo railroad line. There is a train at intervals of six minutes. But skepticism is expressed in regard to the actual number of troops transported. Returning trains from Belgium and Northern France carry agricultural implements commandeered there and destined for Russia.

POPE SAYS PRAYER FOR PEACE

Urges Children Especially to Plead
for Divine Intervention to End
War.

Rome.—Pope Benedict today sent to the people of America, in a statement to the United Press, through the Papal Secretary of State, this Christmas message:

"The Holy Father sends to the people of America his cordial greetings and prays they may take to heart in this time of strife and suffering the true lessons of the Christmas tale—the lessons of God's unceasing love for mankind, and the lesson of unflinching courage and sacrifice of self. "More especially he calls upon the little children to whom this day of days belongs, to pray with all their hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem, that He may protect their loved ones and give back to the world that peace which He came to bring upon earth."

WILHELMS CHRISTMAS TALK

If Nation Will Not Accept Peace on
German Terms, Sword Will
Show Him Their Error.

Amsterdam.—"If the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace to the world by the battering of our iron fist and our shining sword," Kaiser Wilhelm declared in a speech to the second army. "Despite three years of war and suffering," the Kaiser continued, "our old offensive spirit is still effective."

"This is shown," the German emperor added, "by our recent great victories in Flanders and at Cambrai, where the arrogant British first felt the crushing power of our offensive blow."

Congressman Bathrick of Ohio Dies. Akron, O.—Representative E. R. Bathrick of the Fourteenth Ohio district died at his home here. He was a Democrat.

Hunt Seated as Governor. Phoenix, Ariz.—The Arizona supreme court seated G. W. P. Hunt as governor of Arizona. Hunt contested the election of Gov. Campbell, who now holds the office. Hunt is a Democrat.

Washington.—Persons who plan to relieve the coal shortage this winter by burning wood can figure that two pounds of seasoned wood have a fuel value equal to one pound of coal, according to experts of the forest service.

Chicago.—Mrs. Adelaide Thomas, wife of Dr. Harold M. Thomas, announced that she will devote 1,000 acres of land in Price county, Wisconsin, to the use of wounded convalescent soldiers returning from France.

Earth Tremor Noted at Buffalo. Buffalo, N. Y.—An earthquake shock was recorded on the seismograph at Canisius college, it was announced. The main shock lasted from 1:19 p. m. to 1:27 p. m., with preliminary tremors at 1:01.

GARFIELD URGES CONTROL OF MINES

SAYS GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE
CHARGE OR LATION WILL
SUFFER.

SHORTAGE IS 50,000,000 TONS

Increased Fuel Consumption Made
Necessary by War Work—Rail-
road Congestion Also Blamed
for Scarcity.

Washington.—America's coal mines must be placed under government control or the nation will suffer coal shortage for the period of the war. Dr. Harry A. Garfield, fuel administrator, testified here before the Senate subcommittee investigating the coal shortage.

"It is not a question of when, but how soon," said Dr. Garfield in reference to government action in controlling the coal mines of America. He explained that he did not believe government control should come abruptly, but should be a general process.

Blame for the coal shortage which exists was laid directly at the door of the war by Dr. Garfield. He declared that the shortage has been caused by a greatly increased consumption due to war work, and stated that the increased production has failed to meet the demands. The United States now lacks 50,000,000 tons of coal, despite the fact that the production for 1917 will exceed the production for 1916 by 50,000,000 tons.

Railroad congestion has largely exaggerated this situation, according to Garfield. He made it clear that he did not desire to shift any of the blame to the railroads, but stated that transportation difficulties have decreased production this year by 20,142,166 tons.

In the opinion of Dr. Garfield, the condition of the American railways today is the result of government policy. He stated that in a time such as the present it is necessary for the railroads to act as a unit. Under existing conditions they cannot do this, "either physically or legally," he said. The policy of the American government has been to preserve competition to such a degree that it is now impossible for the roads to co-operate, Dr. Garfield declared.

During his administration, Dr. Garfield stated, he had made forty revisions in prices and they had all been upward. He justified these revisions by declaring he believed it the only possible way to stimulate production without absolute control.

KAISER A 'SACRELIGIOUS HUN'

Senator King of Utah Applies Strong
Language to Emperor in View of
Recent Speech.

Washington.—"A sacrilegious barbarian" is the description Senator William H. King of Utah gives to the Kaiser.

Senator King, in an interview, takes up the utterances of the Kaiser, since he ascended the throne, in one of which he calls himself the "instrument of the Almighty."

"The latest utterances of the German emperor," says King, "to the effect that the year 1917 has proved that the Lord of Creation is an unconditional and avowed ally of the German people is in line with the many sacrilegious utterances that have characterized him since he ascended the throne."

Senator King declares this "cruel, fiendish and barbarous ruler" is not a Christian, but an atheist.

U. S. EXPORTS SHOW LOSSES

Imports for Eleven Months Total
\$725,000,000—Increase of \$500,000
Over Last Year.

Washington.—Exports during November amounted to \$488,000,000, a decrease of \$55,000,000 from October, 1917, and of \$28,000,000 from November of last year, according to a statement issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. For the eleven months ending with November, exports were valued at \$5,839,000,000, against \$4,059,000,000 a year ago.

Imports during November were valued at \$231,000,000, about the same as in October of this year, but \$44,000,000 more than in November a year ago. The imports during the eleven months of this year were valued at \$2,725,000,000, a considerable increase over the imports for the eleven months' period of 1916, which were valued at \$2,187,000,000.

Stefanescu at Yukon. Ottawa.—Vilhelmur Stefanescu, the Arctic explorer, last heard from in a letter received in March, 1916, has arrived with his party at Fort Yukon, according to word received by the Naval Department.

Women Santa Bearly Burned. Moorhead, Minn.—Mrs. Carl M. Nelson of Moorhead was dangerously burned when candles on a home Christmas tree ignited her Santa Claus disguise while distributing presents to her children.

Schwab Quits Famous Car. New York.—Charles M. Schwab, head of the Bethlehem Steel Company, announced he will ride in day coaches or ordinary Pullmans hereafter for the duration of the war. His private car has been abandoned.

Soldier Whips Six Men. Chicago.—Tore Lindberg, selective, didn't know just who said, "who is that big stiff in the uniform?" So he cleaned out the whole bunch in Gus Bjork's saloon. Six of the twenty-five received first aid at a hospital.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BY LOCAL BOARDS

REVENUE OF STATE WILL BE
TREBLED IF TAXES ARE
NOT REDUCED.

SYSTEM IS REVOLUTIONIZED

Seventeen Counties Report Assess-
ments Raised from \$100,000,000
to Half Billion—True Money
Value Turned In.

Jefferson City, Mo.

The total taxable valuation of Missouri real estate and personal property will be increased from \$2,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000 if the ratio of increase so far reported to the state tax commission is maintained by the counties not yet reporting.

That the state's system of taxation has been revolutionized by the creation of the commission, and its insistence that property be assessed at its true value in money, as required by statute, is indicated by approximate assessments which have been reported to the commission from many of the counties.

These show that taxable valuation of property in various counties has been boosted from 2 1/4 to 3 1/2, the assessments of 1916.

Chairman Cornelius Roach made public a comparative statement of the assessments for 1916 and 1917 in 17 counties, which indicates that assessors have increased the aggregate of property in these counties 3.31 times.

These counties were assessed in 1916 at \$153,773,000, while this year their approximate assessments reach a total of \$505,865,000. The actual figures may exceed or be slightly less than the sum named.

The seventeen counties included in Roach's comparative statement represent every section of the state and are typical of the others. The names of the counties and their assessment in 1916 and 1917 follow: (000 omitted)

County	1916.	1917.
Johnson	\$12,455	\$38,000
Pettis	13,597	44,785
Lafayette	13,362	46,000
Saline	14,889	45,000
Cass	9,511	46,000
Benton	4,533	14,000
Lawrence	7,635	18,400
Newton	7,503	17,900
Barry	5,358	15,000
Butler	5,696	14,000
Cape Girardeau	9,166	30,000
Pemiscot	5,446	13,000
St. Francis	11,644	43,000
Ararat	8,045	30,000
Knox	5,404	13,580
Atchison	11,289	50,000
Platte	7,730	30,000
Totals	\$153,773	\$505,865

Bricklayers Needed.

Gov. Gardner received a message from Provost Marshal General Crowder, advising him that Gen. Pershing had called the war department that he must have several thousand bricklayers for immediate service in France, and instructing Gardner to notify the local boards to furnish the war department at once the following information:

1. Number of bricklayers selected for service who have not been sent to camp.
2. Number of bricklayers in class 1 of the new regulations.
3. Number of bricklayers not in class 1 who will volunteer for immediate service.

Gov. Gardner turned over the order to Executive Officer Lieutenant Colonel J. H. McCord, who immediately forwarded the telegram to the local boards.

Gardner Backs Kemper.

Col. William Kemper of this city is to be Gov. Gardner's choice for the Democratic nomination for governor. Attorney John Atwood is also being groomed for mayor of Kansas City by the Pendergast contingent. Col. Fred W. Fleming, who is director for Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma in the war savings campaign, is said to be sponsoring the fight for Atwood for mayor. Fleming, however, will not favor the plan to have Col. Kemper head the Democratic state ticket in 1920.

Peace may be restored in Kansas City between the Pendergast and Shannon forces through the selection of Atwood for mayor.

Tom Pendergast, who has just returned from New Orleans, where he has been dallying with the "ponies," refused to support the Democratic nominee for mayor in the last campaign. As a result, a Republican occupies the mayoralty chair.

Warned of Seed Corn Shortage. The word has gone out that the selection of seed corn next summer will be a hard matter, and the state agricultural department is advising the greatest caution in its selection. The damage to much of the corn by early freezing will result in much of the crop failing to germinate, as it had to be gathered in an immature state and has gone through a process of heating that has destroyed the life principle. As a result a shortage in seed corn for next year is predicted.

Reserve Is Organized. The Missouri Council of Defense is organizing a Missouri division of the United States public service reserve and the national division. W. H. Hall of Washington, has appointed C. C. Carson of Jefferson City as director for the Missouri division.

Carson serves at a salary of \$1 per year. Until recently he was president of a broom company which operated in the state prison.

The purpose of the public service reserve is to provide labor for government enterprises.

Commission to Aid Negroes. Gov. Gardner has announced the appointment of a commission of negro education and social workers to inquire into the educational, social, moral and health conditions of the negroes of Missouri.

The commission was appointed upon the suggestion of N. C. Bruce of Dalton, head of a negro vocational institution, and other leaders of the race.

Governor Gardner said in a statement issued:

"Having been born in the South, I believe I understand the colored people thoroughly, and I am deeply interested in their welfare. I have decided to appoint a commission to be known as the Missouri Negro Commission, for the following purposes:

"First, for the general welfare of the negroes of this state; second, better education; third, the retention of the negroes on the farm; fourth, the study of their moral and social conditions; fifth, food conservation; sixth, improved health conditions; seventh, obligations of citizenship."

The members of the commission follow: N. C. Bruce, Dalton, chairman; Dr. J. Meade Benson, St. Louis; C. E. Robinson, St. Louis; O. F. Nelson, Louisiana; Dock Payne, Huntsville; J. B. Coleman, Columbia; S. F. Butler, Auxvasse; Dr. Wm. J. Tompkins, Kansas City; Ephraim Buckner, St. Joseph; Mrs. Wm. S. Garrison, St. Joseph; C. S. Cobb, Festus; W. C. Gordon, St. Louis; H. A. Smith, St. Louis; Tom Bass, Mexico; Squire Blackwell, Frankford; Ed Salisbury, Huntsville; Alex. Hicks, Columbia; John Nunelly, Bluffton; F. B. Weaver, Kansas City; Mrs. Emma D. Gordon, St. Joseph; Mrs. Clem Agee, Triplet; A. C. Maclin, Hannibal.

Crop Report for December.

The crop report for the state of Missouri, issued by E. A. Logan, field agent for the United States department of agriculture, says that the farmers of Missouri have increased their wheat acreage 25 per cent. The increase is five times that suggested by the federal government last August. The acreage seeded this fall is 550,000 acres more than was sown in 1916 and 21,000 more than in 1914.

Seeding began in September and continued over a longer season than usual, some being sown as late as the last of November in the lowlands of the southeast. The soil was put in better condition and more acres fertilized than usual, and a larger portion of the crop was sown on corn stubble than is customary.

The backward condition of wheat on December 1 was caused by the dry weather of October and November all over the state, but it was broken by general rains the last week of November in the southern part. Early sown wheat has made a fair growth, somewhat retarded by the drought, but late sown grain has not yet come up.

The crop got a late start in some districts of the state, but the wheat is reported to be well rooted. Wheat on bottom lands shows a condition well up to that of the ten year average.

The northeast and south (Osark) section suffered most from fall drought but the northwest and central part show better than an average condition, being the better territory, while in the heavy producing east, with a large acreage, the plant is small and slow in coming up.

Very little pasture was afforded by wheat this fall. The Hessian fly is absent. Grasshoppers did some damage in Mercer and Shelby counties. A blanket of snow over the whole state fell the first week in December.

Farmers' Week, 1918. "The evening programs," or after-lection of Atwood may have a potent Week, Monday to Friday, January 14-18, 1918, at Columbia, are of wider human interest than ever before.

Beginning with Monday night, wartime conditions will have a strong part in the addresses, brought to our people by great speakers.

Owing to the fact that the schedule is at the last moment, being revised and rearranged because of the merging of the federal government's state war conference with Farmers' Week, the detail of the night programs have not been announced.

Mr. Herbert Hoover has given his personal pledge to attend, barring war-time complications, and speak on one evening.

Gov. Frederick D. Gardner will be the guest of honor and principal orator on Thursday night.

Hon. William Gibbs McAdoo, secretary of the United States treasury, will speak on Wednesday night, bringing a personal message to the corn belt from President Woodrow Wilson.

A celebrated soldier, just returned from France, will speak on Wednesday night.

A great national war speaker will be present to discuss the world situation with the Missouri farmer on Thursday.

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By Buying
Ever Reliable
WILLIAMS'
CASCARA QUININE

Its address is given for this 25 years old remedy—see the 21 tablets—placed on government health certificate, and guaranteed to give relief.

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50 Tablets for 95c.
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GERMANS RESENT NAME HUN

Kaiser's Government Sentences Mem-
ber of Royal Flying Corps to Prison
for Raping the Insult.

How bitterly the German resents the appellation "Hun" is illustrated by the news that Flight Sergeant Alexander Boyd of the Royal Flying Corps has been sentenced by his German captors to one year imprisonment for applying this "insult" to his guards.

The Cologne Gazette learns from its Berlin correspondent that this aviator was shot down in the North sea by a German torpedo boat and forced to sit idly in his ruined boat floating machine while the Prussian row boat came to take him off. He sought to dispatch a carrier pigeon from his plane, hearing the message, "Shot down at 6:42. Picked up by the Huns."

The Germans captured the pigeon before it could escape and read the message. Boyd was immediately charged with insulting the German character and given one year to repent.

U-Boat Was Briton's Tomb.

A captain engaged on British admiralty service, discussing the fate of the men of the Belgian Prince—left to drown when the submarine submerged—told me, writes George Harding in Harper's Magazine, that the same week the Belgian Prince outrage occurred he was in an English naval base where a German submarine was towed in, after being caught out at sea in a net. On opening it they found not only the German crew dead, but also six English captains, captured when their vessels were torpedoed.

"I wonder," he said, "if there is any new way left an allied seaman can meet his fate."

IMITATION IS SINCEREST FLATTERY

but like counterfeit money the imitation has not the worth